

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

image pickup means for picking up an image of an image pickup object to produce image data;

detection means for detecting a variation ~~of the state~~ in brightness of the image pickup object from within the image data produced by said image pickup means and generating a trigger signal in response to a brightness variation detection; and

storage means for storing the image data produced by said image pickup means in synchronism with the trigger signal generated by said detection means;

wherein said detection means calculates a difference value between a sum total of pixel values of all pixels of image data for one frame fetched previously by a predetermined interval of time and a sum total of pixel values of all of the pixels of image data for one frame fetched at a present point of time, and, if the difference value is greater than a reference value set in advance, determines that a variation of a state has occurred with the image pickup object and generates the trigger signal.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detection means further detects a motion vector of the image data as ~~the~~ a variation of the state of the image pickup object.

4. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detection means further detects ~~the~~ a variation of the state of the image pickup object based on a predetermined image pattern of the image data.

5. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~all of~~ a CCD video camera which forms said image pickup means and a hardware module and a software module which form said detection means and said storage means are integrated in a portable housing.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The information processing apparatus according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein said storage means stores the image data for one frame previously fetched ~~prior~~ by ~~the~~ a predetermined interval of time at a point of time when the trigger signal is supplied from said detection means.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing method, comprising the steps of:
~~a first pixel value calculation processing step of~~ calculating a first sum total of pixel values of all pixels of image data for one frame fetched ~~prior~~ previously by a predetermined interval of time by image pickup means which picks up an image of an image pickup object;
~~a second pixel value calculation processing step of~~ calculating a second sum total of pixel values of all of the pixels of image data for one frame fetched at a present point of time by said image pickup means;

~~a detecting processing step of calculating a brightness difference value between the first and second sum totals of pixel values value calculated in the first pixel value calculation processing step and the value calculated in the second pixel value calculation processing step~~
and, when the difference value is greater than a reference value set in advance, determining that a variation of the brightness state has occurred with the image pickup object and generating a trigger signal in response to a brightness variation determination; and

~~a storage processing step of storing the image data for one frame fetched prior previously by the a predetermined interval of time at a point of time when the trigger signal is generated in the detection processing step.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A medium which causes a computer to execute an information processing program, said information processing program comprising the steps of:

~~a first pixel value calculation processing step of calculating a first sum total of pixel values of all pixels of image data for one frame fetched prior previously by a predetermined interval of time by image pickup means which picks up an image of an image pickup object;~~

~~a second pixel value calculation processing step of calculating a second sum total of pixel values of all of the pixels of image data for one frame fetched at a present point of time by said image pickup means;~~

~~a detecting processing step of calculating a brightness difference value between the first and second sum totals of pixel values value calculated in the first pixel value calculation processing step and the value calculated in the second pixel value calculation processing step~~
and, when the difference value is greater than a reference value set in advance, determining that a

variation of ~~the~~ brightness state has occurred with the image pickup object and generating a trigger signal in response to a brightness variation determination; and

~~a storage processing step of~~ storing the image data for one frame fetched ~~prior~~ previously by ~~the~~ a predetermined interval of time at a point of time when the trigger signal is generated ~~in~~ the detection processing step.

10. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said trigger signal is generated in response to a detection of an increase in brightness of the image pickup object.

11. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said trigger signal is generated in response to a detection of a decrease in brightness of the image pickup object, and said storage means stores image data captured a predetermined amount of time prior to said detection of a decrease in brightness.

12. (New) An information processing apparatus, comprising:
image pickup means for picking up an image of an image pickup object to produce image data;

detection means for detecting movement of a predetermined body part of a user of the information processing apparatus, wherein a trigger signal is generated in response to a detection of said movement; and

storage means for storing the image data produced by said image pickup means in synchronism with the trigger signal generated by said detection means;

wherein said detection means calculates a difference value between a sum total of pixel values of all pixels of image data for one frame fetched previously by a predetermined interval of time and a sum total of pixel values of all of the pixels of image data for one frame fetched at a present point of time, and, if the difference value is greater than a reference value set in advance, determines that a variation of a state has occurred with the image pickup object and generates the trigger signal.

13. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said body part is the user's head.

14. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising means for adjusting a delay time such that image data immediately before detection of the user's body part movement is recorded.